

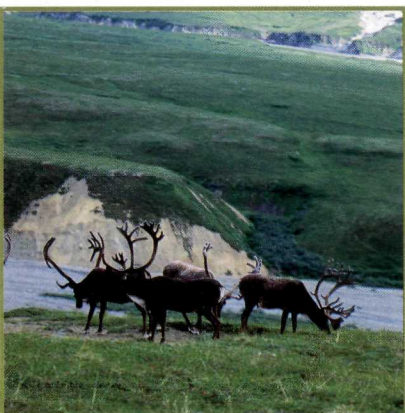
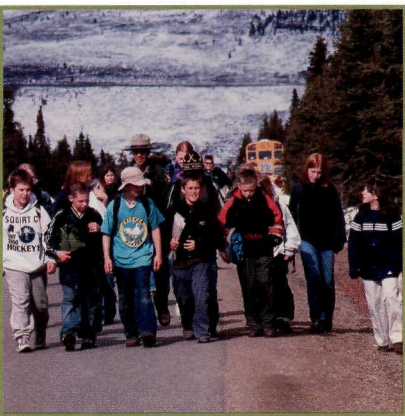
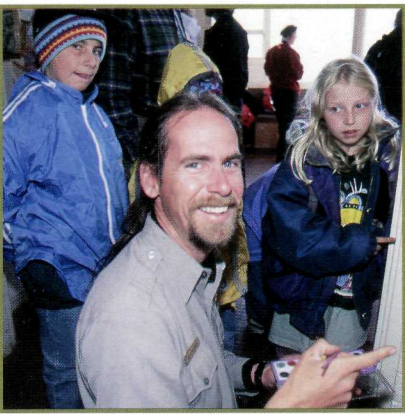


DENALI  
SCIENCE  
*and*  
LEARNING  
CENTER



Denali National  
Park and Preserve

*Explore*  
*Alaska's Northern Parklands*



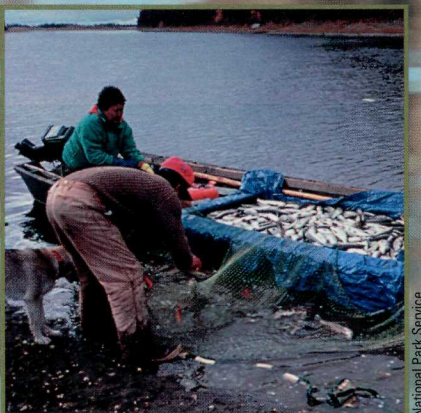
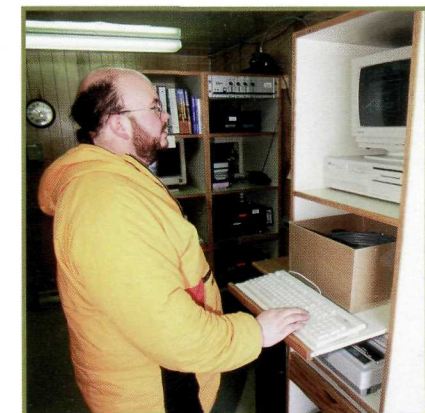
Great opportunities await those who seek adventure and knowledge.

At the new Denali Science and Learning Center, you'll explore rugged mountains and pristine glaciers, discover the abundant wildlife of the tundra and taiga, and delve into the rich cultural legacy found on more than 39 million acres of northern national parklands.

These spectacular wild lands represent a vast eco-region stretching from the interior of Alaska to the Arctic. Here, you'll watch and participate in research in action. Rangers and scientists will share their latest discoveries through field programs, workshops, exhibits and multimedia.

Denali National Park and Preserve joins with seven other Alaskan national parks to create this world-class center for education and research.

- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Cape Krusenstern National Monument
- Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
- Kobuk Valley National Park
- Noatak National Preserve
- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve



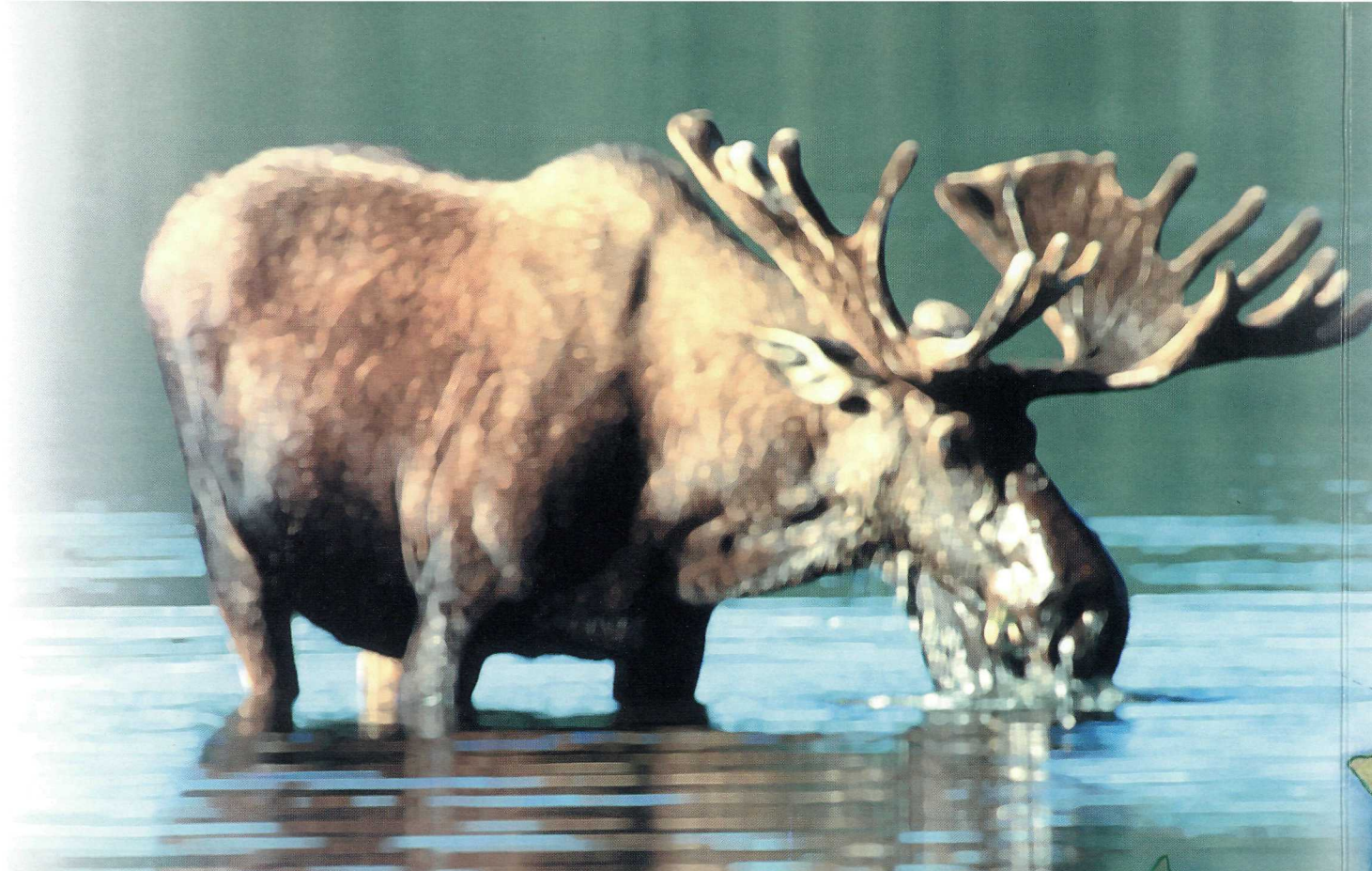
### Living in the Parks

The health and vitality of Alaska's native and rural communities are intimately tied to the living landscapes around them. The northern parks bring a longstanding commitment to native cultures, residents and schools to share information gained from research on park lands to the people of the region. This sharing of knowledge will ensure the preservation of these living landscapes. The Science Center will be a place where traditional knowledge and cultural patterns are integrated into the educational and scientific programs offered to people of all ages.



*It is true basic research. It means living with the animals, trying to think as they do, establishing an intimate relationship with the creatures that reveals their motivation in all that they do. Such intimate, on-the-ground contact with animals, for as long as it takes to get the desired information, leads to an understanding of nature, which is desperately lacking in this age of human exploitation of the planet.*

— Olaus J. Murie, foreword to *A Naturalist in Alaska* by Adolph Murie



## In the Heart of Alaska

You'll find the Denali Science and Learning Center at the only developed entrance to Denali National Park and Preserve. It sits at the heart of interior Alaska and is accessible by air, road and rail.



The George Parks Highway and the Fairbanks-to-Anchorage line of the Alaska Railroad pass through the Park. Anchorage, with 260,000 residents, and Fairbanks, with 32,000, are the largest cities in Alaska. Many smaller towns thrive along the highway, with populations ranging from 300 to 1,000. The Park is located at the western terminus of the Denali Highway (Highway 8).

Cover photos: Dall Sheep by Thomas D. Mangelsen, Park Scientist by Kennan Ward, Photos of Mt. McKinley and the Ranger Program provided by National Park Service. All remaining photos by Kennan and Karen Ward, unless otherwise noted.

## Learning in the Parks

At the Center, you can learn how to track wildlife, explore the rugged Brooks and Alaska ranges, visit archeological and cultural sites dating back 11,000 years, and learn about our living cultural heritage. Program elements include:

- **Educational programs**, including day-long and multi-day family field seminars, a lecture series, residential field programs for students of all ages, teacher training, Elderhostel programs, college credit courses, and distance learning opportunities.
- **Ongoing research opportunities**, and
- **A library** of resource literature.

The parks' non-profit partners offer extraordinary opportunities for managing and funding educational programs at the Center. The Alaska Natural History Association, the Denali Foundation and the Denali Institute will host and fund a variety of programs including Elderhostel, wilderness skills classes for youth-at-risk and long-term monitoring research projects.

Reaching further afield, the Center will link you with the University of Alaska, its museum and its extension campuses in Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow and four additional school districts that cover approximately one-third of Alaska.



National Park Service



National Park Service

## Research in the Parks

The sustainable design of the Denali Science and Learning Center suits an already developed site at the park entrance, perfect for the visitor and science complex. Outfitted with the latest technology and premier research facilities, the Center integrates science in the northern latitudes, and supports the internationally recognized, robust research and resource management program ongoing in Denali.

The seven other parks bring archeologists, plant ecologists, lichenologists and biologists to this diverse, multi-disciplinary program in the social, biological and physical sciences. By linking with the Beringian Heritage International Park Program, Russian and other visiting scientists will involve the public in inventorying, monitoring and scientific projects.

**Field Science Support:** Researchers will utilize the Center's proposed laboratories, storage space and living quarters. Existing residential facilities in Nome and Coal Creek will supplement those at the Center. Facilities and logistical support are also available at Serpentine Hot Springs, Kotzebue, Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Coldfoot and Eagle.

**Enlightened Thinking:** The Center's classrooms and meeting rooms will provoke formal and informal discussions between scientists, park staff and visitors.

**Information Transfer:** Center staff will develop public programs, exhibits, and publications, and tap researchers for current information.



## Adventures in the Parks: Sustainable Tourism

Go north, and you'll discover adventure in the wild lands of Alaska's national parks. Residents and tourists will use this Center and the programs in all of the parks to fully experience Alaska's parklands. Tourism in balance with local residents and cultures is the key to the long-term, economic health of interior Alaska. By offering unique educational opportunities and expanding facilities for visitors, local economies will benefit.



The Center will meet current and future growth in tourism and will contribute greatly to visitors on tours or traveling independently. The Center staff will work with local communities and tourism interests to design educational programs that meet everyone's needs.

*America's National Park System has been described as the greatest set of outdoor classrooms the world has ever seen. But the educational value of those classrooms will be lost if we fail to recognize they are simultaneously the greatest set of natural laboratories. It is the study of nature's boundless variety and unlimited activity that will give us an ever-expanding source of knowledge and information.*

— **Robert G. Stanton,**  
former Director National Park Service

